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AN ANALYSIS OF MARINE CORPS ENLISTED PERSONNEL COHORT DATA

Calvin Arthur Lloyd



NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

Monterey, California



THESIS

AN ANALYSIS OF MARINE CORPS
ENLISTED PERSONNEL COHORT DATA

bу

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March 1972

Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.

An Analysis of Marine Corps Enlisted Personnel Cohort Data

by

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Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OPERATIONS RESEARCH

from the

NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL March 1972

L763

ABSTRACT

Data from Marine Corps enlisted cohorts are analyzed to give insight into personnel flow through the enlisted Marine Corps system. In this paper, a cohort is a group of enlisted men who enlist in a given calendar month for a given length of obligated service. Stationarity assumptions between cohorts from different months are investigated. A major portion of the analysis is devoted to the extrapolation of the incomplete data on four-year enlistees based on the data from two-year and three-year enlistees. A prediction is made of enlisted strength for 1 January 1972 using the results of the analysis in a cohort prediction model. This is compared with the actual strength as of 1 January 1972. Refinements and associated models are suggested for further study.

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I. THE MODEL

In this section, we formulate a model for predicting the total strength of future Marine Corps enlisted personnel. This model is based on "cohorts" of Marines (see below) and is similar to models discussed by McAfee [1] and Marshall [2].

Each Marine initially enlists in the Marine Corps for a fixed length of obligated service and begins recruit training during some month of some year along with many of his contemporaries. A group which begins recruit training in a given month and is obligated for a given length of service is called, in this paper, a cohort. If adequate records had been kept on each cohort that was initiated over the past forty years, then one could simply add up the members of each cohort that remain on active duty as enlisted men and thus determine the enlisted strength. Records have not been kept in this form, however, and the task of reconstructing them would be monumental.

Since 1966 records have been kept in cohort form. Thus, the use of a cohort model is now possible in practice even though the data is incomplete. The current state of the art in personnel forecasting together with the lack of highly detailed lifetime data do not warrant the use of a sophisticated forecasting model. The model described here is simple and assumes stationarity of cohort behavior. This assumption is investigated in Chapter III. The model parameters are determined from historical data in Chapters III and IV.

To estimate the total enlisted strength at the first of a given month N, the following model is used:

Consider monthly cohorts of men whose initial length of obligated service is two years. Let

 X_i = the initial total strength of the two-year cohort starting in month i.

Then the expected total number of two-year obligors on active duty at the first of month N is

$$A = \sum_{i < N} X_{i} p(i,N;2).$$
 (1)

Note that we do not include the cohort that enters in month N, since predictions are being made for the first of the month.

Similarly, let

 Y_i = the initial total strength of the three-year cohort starting in month i,

Z_i = the initial total strenth of the four-year
 cohort starting in month i, and

p(i,N;t) = the fraction remaining on active duty at start of month N of a cohort starting in month i with an obligated service of t years. t = 2,3,4.

Since each enlisted Marine initially enlists for two, three or four years, the total expected number of enlisted men at the first of month N is

$$T = \sum_{i \le N} X_{i} p(i,N;2) + \sum_{i \le N} Y_{i} p(i,N;3) + \sum_{i \le N} Z_{i} p(i,N;4).$$
 (2)

We next assume stationarity between cohorts having the same length of obligated active duty but starting in different months. That is, we assume

$$p(i,N;t) = p(N-i;t)$$
, $t = 2,3,4$ (3)

for all i and any N. This says that for all cohorts with the same length of obligated service t, the fraction remaining on active duty k months after starting recruit training depends only on k and not on when the cohort started. Equation (2) now becomes

$$T = \sum_{i \leq N} X_{i} p(N-i;2) + \sum_{i \leq N} Y_{i} p(N-i;3) + \sum_{i \leq N} Z_{i} p(N-i;4). \quad (4)$$

In practice, the actual number of starting months included in the model would be limited to include only months when men could still be on active duty. That is, the summations in (4) would be only over i for which p(N-i;t) is greater than zero.



II. THE DATA

The data used in this thesis were provided by Headquarters Marine Corps, AOIM-2. They were presented in cohort form by length of obligated active service and month of beginning recruit training. The cohorts from the six months of July through December 1967 were the most complete and were selected for the analysis.

We define a cohort member's lifetime to be the time in months from the end of his reporting month until the end of the month in which he is released from his active duty obligation or until he otherwise disassociates himself from the cohort by permanently changing his active duty status. The data provided by AOIM-2 were lifetimes consistent with this definition and thus included only first-term enlistments. Although the model could be used to predict total enlisted strength, only total first-term enlistment strength is predicted because of this restriction in the data.

Each of the six cohorts of two-year obligors is traced in monthly increments for a minimum of thirty months and the three-year cohorts for a minimum of forty months, by which time over 95 percent of the lifetimes of members in each cohort have expired. The six cohorts of four-year obligors are also traced for a minimum of forty months, by which time only about 53 percent of the lifetimes of members have expired. The data from the four-year cohorts are, therefore, incomplete and missing data must be estimated (Chapter IV).

In the original data from Headquarters Marine Corps, completed lifetimes for each month traced are divided into five separate groups as follows:

- R1 Separated altogether from the Marine Corps usually for mental, physical or disciplinary reasons.
- R2 Re-enlistment, leaves cohort by changing length of obligated service.
- R3 Released from active duty, transferred to Marine Corps Reserves.
- R4 Dropped as a deserter.
- R5 Accepted as an Officer Candidate, leaves cohort by changing status.

Table I gives an example of the cohort data for two-year obligors starting in October 1967. The complete data base is given in Appendix A.

Groups R2, R4 and R5 amount to a very small percentage of any given cohort and hence, for analysis purposes these are grouped together with R1 to form two basic categories of lifetimes:

- a) Attrition Cohort members who for various reasons do not complete their tour of active duty as originally obligated. (R1 + R2 + R4 + R5).
- b) EOAS Find of Obligated Active duty Service.

 Members who complete their active duty obligation to the satisfaction of the Marine Corps and are transferred to the Reserves. (R3).

The term Total Data is used when referring to the combination of Attrition and EOAS, i.e., to all the members of a cohort.



TABLE I

Example of Cohort Data
Two-year obligors, starting in October 1967

Initial Strength = 2034

Month after start	R1	Losse R2	s by Gro R3	ups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36	38 35 10 10 10 10 10 10 11 10 11 10 11 10 11 10 11 10 10	1 1 1 2 2 1 2 6 1 5	50 73 73 72 72 110 137 432 317 18 36 20 22 14 5	1 1 1 1 2	3 8 1 1	38 36 15 10 5 11 30 10 30 15 11 20 31 31 45 44 42 27 11 92 85 35 6	1996 1945 1945 1935 1930 1919 1884 1854 1864 1876 1776 1776 1771 1710 1619 1225 1014 930 795 641 187 141 117 95 88 77 68 66 53 50 45 39
Total Losses	433	23	1513	12	14	1995	



III. THE ANALYSIS

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of analyzing the past lifetime distributions of enlisted cohorts is first to determine if the stationarity assumption (Chapter I) is reasonable. Secondly, the analysis yields values for the model parameters p(k;t), k < N, t = 2,3,4.

B. STATIONARITY

All cohorts with the same length of obligated active duty are considered together and called a grouping. Each cohort grouping is treated separately during this first portion of the analysis. Using the Total Data (Attrition plus EOAS), the fraction of a cohort whose lifetimes exceed a given number of months (survivor function) was plotted for each cohort and mean lifetimes calculated. Thirty-month means for the two-year cohorts and forty-month means for the three and four-year cohorts are plotted in Figure 1. No significant trends are obvious and the maximum difference between any two means within a grouping is less than five percent of the aggregate mean. Since more complete data are available on two-year cohorts, the thirty-month means of the January through June 1968 cohorts were also computed and plotted. These additional values remained within five percent of the aggregate mean and indicated no obvious trends.

The values of the four-year cohorts' forty-month means are not representative of the true mean of a four year cohort because only some 53 percent of the lifetimes are represented. However, the small variation within which the values fell at this common cut-off time



and the similar shapes displayed by the three curves in Figure 1 indicate that though these estimated means are numerically low, the true means would follow these estimates and hence would show no obvious trends.

The mean lifetimes of the cohorts, therefore, appear to be constant over time within groupings. This tends to support the stationarity assumption.

Next, the aggregate survivor function of all six cohorts was calculated for each grouping. These are plotted within the envelopes formed by extreme values of their six component survivor functions.

(Figure 2).

If it is assumed that all the individual members of each cohort act independently, and if S_j is the number in a cohort of size n whose lifetimes exceed j months, then under the hypothesis of stationarity S_j would be a binomially distributed random variable with parameters n and π_j , where π_j = Prob [an individual lifetime exceeds j months]. In this case the variance of S_j is $n\pi_j(1-\pi_j)$, and

$$\operatorname{Var}\left[\frac{S_{j}}{n}\right] = \frac{1}{n^{2}} \operatorname{Var}\left[S_{j}\right] = \frac{\pi_{j}(1-\pi_{j})}{n}. \tag{5}$$

The maximum value that $\pi_j(1-\pi_j)$ can be is 0.25 when $\pi_j=0.5$ and thus

$$\operatorname{Var}\left[\frac{S_{j}}{n}\right] \leq \frac{0.25}{n}$$
.

The maximum variances for the three Total Data aggregate sample tail distributions (survivor functions) under the stationarity and independence hypotheses are displayed in Table II below.

Table II
.
Maximum Variances for Total Data Aggregate Distributions

Grouping	Sample Size (n)	Max Variance (σ ²)	2σ
2-year	11728	.213 x 10 ⁻⁴ .282 x 10 ⁻⁴ .118 x 10 ⁻⁴	.00923
3-year	8849		.01063
4-year	21122		.00688

It must be concluded that either the stationarity or independence assumption (or both) does not hold. Clearly, individual members do not act independently with regard to leaving active duty. Since all the men follow very similar career patterns during their first term and are all subject to the same perils and policies, they can be expected to act in similar ways.

The six component sample distributions of each grouping were plotted on the same graph in order to further investigate the stationarity assumption. The distributions crossed each other several times and indicated no clear trends. The distributions for the cohorts of July, September and November are plotted for each of the three groupings in Figures 3, 4 and 5 for the two-year, three-year and four-year groupings respectively. These plots also tend to support the stationarity assumption.

C. INHOMOGENEITY IN COHORTS

For further insight into the cohort behavior, the Total Data of each cohort are split into the two basic categories of Attrition and EOAS (Chapter II). The distributions of each category within each grouping are plotted and investigated for stationarity as was done on the Total Data.



With only 53 percent of the lifetimes of four-year obligors completed, it is not known what fraction of a given four-year cohort will eventually fall into each of the two categories, Attrition and EOAS. It is, therefore, necessary to determine estimates for these fractions. This is done in the following manner using the data from the aggregate distributions: Let

Z = the active duty lifetime of a four-year enlistee.

Z₁ = the active duty lifetime of a four-year enlistee given that he will fall in the EOAS category.

Z₂ = the active duty lifetime of a four-year enlistee given that he will fall in the Attrition category.

p₁ = the probability that a four-year enlistee will fall
in the EOAS category.

p₂ = the probability that a four-year enlistee will fall
in the Attrition category. (1-p₁).

Then the following relations hold:

$$P[Z \le z] = p_1 P[Z_1 \le z] + p_2 P[Z_2 \le z],$$
 (6)

$$P[Z \le z] = 1 - P[Z > z], \qquad (7)$$

where P[Z > z] are the values plotted in the lifetime tail distribution (Figure 2, four-year curve). The values p_1 and p_2 will be determined as the estimates of the desired fractions.

From the data - and subsequently from the four-year plot in Figure 7 - it can be seen that for values of $z \le 28$ the number of EOAS losses is negligible. Therefore, we take $P[Z_1 \le 28] = 0$. For z = 28, equation (6) reduces to

$$P[Z \le 28] = p_2 P[Z_2 \le 28].$$
 (8)



From the data, or from Figure 2 (four-year aggregate curves), the left-hand side of (8) is 0.215. The Attrition probability, $P[Z_2 \le 28]$, now needs to be determined so that p_2 can be estimated.

It is noted that the aggregate Attrition distributions for the two-year and three-year groupings (Figure 6) are remarkably linear out to their original obligated service of 24 and 36 months respectively. It is reasonable to believe, therefore, that the four-year aggregate Attrition distribution will follow a similar linear function. From the values of the two-year and three-year distributions at 24 and 36 months respectively, it is hypothesized that the four-year aggregate Attrition distribution will be approximately linear from its beginning value of 1.0 at zero months to a value of 0.03 at 48 months.

Using this linear approximation, the value of P [$\mathbb{Z}_2 \leq 28$] is 0.566. Hence, from equation (8),

$$p_2 = \frac{P[Z \le 28]}{P[Z_2 \le 28]} = \frac{0.215}{0.566} = 0.380 .$$
 (9)

With a total four-year aggregate sample size of 21,122 Marines, it follows that 8032 Marines will be in the Attrition category and 13,090 will be in the EOAS category.

Based on a sample size of 8032, the forty-month data produced another remarkably linear Attrition distribution (Figure 6, four-year curve) as hypothesized. Note that a change in the sample size affects only the slope of this curve and not its linearity. The four-year EOAS distribution using the sample size of 13,090 is plotted in Figure 7 (four-year curve).

The value of $p_2 = 0.380$ is also used to determine the expected sample sizes of the two basic categories for the component distributions.



To investigate the Attrition and EDAS category distributions for stationarity, procedures similar to those used for the Total Data are followed. Essentially, each cohort is divided into two sub-cohorts, one for each of the two basic categories.

The tail distributions (survivor functions) were determined for each sub-cohort. The mean lifetimes calculated for these distributions are plotted for the Attrition and EOAS categories in Figures 8 and 9 respectively. The EOAS means (Figure 9) show a slight upward trend for the four-year sub-cohorts and no clear trends for the two-year and three-year sub-cohorts. The maximum difference in each grouping is again less than five percent of the aggregate mean.

The Attrition means (Figure 8), however, show a distinctive upward trend for the three-year sub-cohorts. No obvious trends are indicated in the two-year and four-year sub-cohorts, but the maximum difference in all three groupings exceeds five percent of the individual aggregate mean, and the differences within the three-year and four-year groupings exceed ten percent.

The mean lifetimes of the Attrition sub-cohorts, therefore, cannot be assumed to be constant over time within groupings, and thus do not support the stationarity assumption.

The aggregate Attrition distribution for each grouping was calculated and these are plotted within their envelopes of extreme component values (Figure 6). Under the stationarity and independence hypotheses (page 13), the maximum variances for the three Attrition aggregate sample tail distributions are as shown in Table III.

Table III

Maximum Variances for Attrition Aggregate Distributions

Grouping	Sample Size (n)	Max Variance $(\sigma^2 = .25)$	2σ
2-year	2803	.812 x 10 ⁻⁴ .958 x 10 ⁻⁴ .311 x 10 ⁻⁴	.0189
3-year	2610		.0196
4-year	8032		.0111

Similarly the EOAS aggregate distributions were calculated and are plotted within their envelopes in Figure 7. The maximum variances for the three EOAS aggregate sample tail distributions under the hypotheses of stationarity and independence are shown in Table IV.

Table TV

Maximum Variances for EOAS Aggregate Distributions

Grouping	Sample Size (n)	Max Variance (σ ²)	2σ
2-year	9167	.273 x 10 ⁻⁴ .401 x 10 ⁻⁴ .191 x 10 ⁻⁴	.0104
3-year	6239		.0127
4-year	13090		.0087

As with the maximum Total Data variances in Table II, these values are too small to plot on Figures 6 and 7. Again, it must be concluded that either the stationarity or independence assumption (or both) does not hold.

Within each category and grouping, the six component monthly sub-cohort distributions were plotted on the same graph to further



investigate the stationarity assumptions. Trends similar to those indicated by the plots of the means (Figures 8 and 9) were revealed tending to discount the stationarity assumption especially for the Attrition distributions. The sub-cohort distributions for July, September and November are plotted for each category and grouping in Figures 10 through 15.

It is therefore concluded that since the Attrition data do not appear to be stationary, we should not attempt to apply the data in category form to this model. However, for purposes of the model, it is felt that the Total Data can be considered as being stationary within groupings by length of initial obligated active duty service.

D. PARAMETER ESTIMATION

We assume, from the above analysis, that the Total Data distributions are stationary within groupings. Therefore, the Total Data aggergate distributions should give reasonably accurate estimates for the model parameters p(k;t), t=2,3,4 out to their plotted limits of k=30,40 and 40 months for t=2,3 and 4 respectively.

Sufficient data are not available on lifetimes longer than 36 months for the two-year cohorts¹, and 40 months for the three-year and four-year cohorts. Assuming lifetimes ended at these points, or p(k;2) = 0, $k \ge 37$, and p(k;3) = p(k;4) = 0, $k \ge 41$, would lead to low estimates in our predictions. Therefore the parameters in these ranges are estimated in the following way.

For all six two-year cohorts, data is available only to k=30 months. However, for five of the six cohorts data is available to k=36 and the parameters p(k;2), $k=31,\ldots,36$ are determined from this reduced sample aggregate distribution.



The distributions of the two-year aggregate data beyond 24 months and the three-year aggregate data beyond 36 months appear to have geometric tails (Figure 2). In other words, after the initial length of obligated service, the lifetimes of remaining members appear to be distributed geometrically. In the two-year case, therefore, a geometric distribution is fitted to the data from p(24;2) through p(36;2) and extended to provide the missing parameters p(k;2), $k \ge 37$. These parameters are obtained by solving

$$p(k;2) = p(36;2) q_2^{k-36}, k \ge 37,$$
 (10)

where $p_2 = (1 - q_2)$ is the parameter of the fitted geometric distribution.

In the three-year case, a geometric distribution is fitted that extends the aggregate curve from p(40;3) through a selected value of p(48;3) = .018, which is consistent with the corresponding two-year parameter p(36;2). Since p(40;3) is known from the data, the geometric parameter q_3 for this fit can easily be calculated from

$$p(48;3) = p(40;3) q_3^8$$
 (11)

The remaining three-year parameters are then determined by

$$p(j;3) = p(40;3) q_3^{j-40}, j \ge 41$$
 (12)

The extrapolations involved in obtaining values for p(k;4), $k \ge 41$, are much more difficult and are discussed in Chapter IV.



IV. THE EXTRAPOLATION

The cohort data reports used as a basis for parameter extimation were last updated as of April 1971. At that point, the four-year cohorts selected had been traced for a minimum of 40 of their original 48 month obligations. Therefore, only about 53 percent of the members' lifetimes had expired. Due to reporting delays, processing time and the expense involved in obtaining the data in the desired cohort form, the lifetime distributions beyond 40 months are not available at the time of this study. In this chapter a method is proposed for estimating the desired parameters p(k;4), $k \ge 41$.

From visual inspection of Figure 2, marked similarities can be seen between the two-year and three-year Total Data aggregate life distributions. Because the four-year life distributions appear also to be following a similar pattern, it is hypothesized that a relatively simple relationship can be found that will reasonably describe the four-year distribution at least up to 48 months based on the two-year or three-year distribution already plotted. After the obligated 48 months, a geometric tail can be added similar to that on the three-year distribution (Chapter III).

Relationships are established between two different aggregate lifetime distributions plotted on the same axes as follows:

Let X = lifetime of two-year (or three-year) enlistees

Z = lifetime of four-year enlistees

f = a one-to-one function relating X and Z then Z = f(X) with $X = f^{-1}(Z)$.

Now

$$\{Z > z\} \Leftrightarrow \{f(X) > z\} \Leftrightarrow \{X > f^{-1}(z)\}, \tag{13}$$

and hence

$$P[Z > z] = P[X > f^{-1}(z)].$$
 (14)

Now if $\overline{F}(x) = P[X > x]$, the tail distribution of X, and $\overline{G}(z) = P[Z > z]$, the tail distribution of Z,

then equation (14) can be written as

$$\overline{G}(z) = \overline{F}(f^{-1}(z)), \tag{15}$$

or

$$\overline{G}(f(z)) = \overline{F}(z). \tag{16}$$

Values of f(z) up to 40 months are determined (for example, see Figure 16) and in each case (2 yr. vs. 4 yr. and 3 yr. vs. 4 yr.) are plotted against z (Figure 17). Since it is also known from experience and from the two-year and three-year distributions that over 90 percent of the lifetimes have expired at the end of the initial obligated time, appropriate weighting points are plotted at f(z) = 48 months.

By polynomial regression techniques, linear and quadratic functions were fitted to the plotted points (Figure 17). These methods yielded best least-squares approximations of the desired function f(z), which are listed in Table V below. Using these functions, the values of z are obtained for $f(z) = 41, \ldots, 48$ months. Hence $\overline{G}(f(z))$, which is equal to $\overline{F}(z)$, can be plotted for $f(z) = 41, \ldots, 48$.



TABLE V
Polynomial Regression Results

Comparison	Degree of Regression	Functional Relationship f(z)
2 yr. vs. 4 yr.	First (Linear) Second	3.65z - 37.6 15.45z29z ² - 154.02
3 yr. vs. 4 yr.	First (Linear) Second	1.7z - 12.35 4.58z05z ² - 53.9

The best fit appeared to be a second-degree polynomial relating the Total Data aggregate distributions of the two-year and four-year cohorts (see Figure 18). This function extrapolates the four-year Total Data distribution out to approximately 50 months. (The sensitivity of this extrapolation is discussed in Chapter V.) A geometric tail is then fitted extending the extrapolation through p(60;4) = .018. The monthly values of this extrapolation curve are used as the estimates of the parameters p(k;4), $k \ge 41$ in the model described in Chapter I.



V. THE PREDICTION RESULTS

A. PREDICTION

In order to predict the total enlisted strength at the start of a given month, we need to know the fractions p(k;t) defined on page 8. The Data available to us for this thesis, however, are sufficient only to determine the total <u>First-term</u> enlisted strength. Except for the incomplete data on first re-enlistments (R4, Chapter II), information on re-enlistments and careerists is not included. Thus, in this chapter, we predict the total number of First-termers on active duty in the Marine Corps as of 1 January 1972, using the model parameters estimated in Chapters III and IV.

Headquarters Marine Corps, A01M-2, has furnished the initial total strengths X_i , Y_i and Z_i for the two-year, three-year and four-year cohorts respectively for the 60 starting months between January 1967 and December 1971.

To obtain the number of those members still on active duty as of 1 January 1972 and still in their first enlistment, we enter the given cohort strengths along with the parameter estimates p(k;t), k = 1,..., 60, t = 2,3,4, into the model described in Chapter I. Since cohort initial strengths are not known for $k \ge 61$, we estimate the number of First-termers remaining on active duty from those cohorts by

$$C_t p(60;t) \frac{q_t}{1-q_+}, t = 2,3,4,$$
 (17)

where C_t = the average of the initial cohort strengths over k = 49, ..., 60 for each grouping (t),



 $q_t = (1 - p_t)$ and p_t is the parameter of the geometric tail distribution fitted to the t-year aggregate curve.

These estimates are simply the remainder of the geometric distributions after 60 months applied to representative average cohort sizes for each grouping.

Incorporating these estimates into the model we obtain the results tabulated in Table VI.

TABLE VI

Model Prediction Results for 1 Jan. 1972

Enlistment Contract	Number on Active Duty
2 Years	34 , 797
3 Years 4 Years	24 , 529 73 , 864
Total First-termers	133,190

Headquarters Marine Corps also provided two other figures:

- 1) The total enlisted strength as of 1 January 1972 = 175,683 Marines.
- 2) The number of Marines serving on their second or subsequent enlistment as of 1 January 1972 = 38,753.

These figures imply that the total number of First-termers on active duty as of 1 January 1972 should be 136,930. If this number is indeed correct, then the model is predicting low by 3740 Marines or slightly over two percent of the total force. The model predicts that 75.81 percent of the total enlisted force are First-termers as compared with 77.94 percent derived from the reported figures.



B. EXTRAPOLATION SENSITIVITY

An important factor that contributes to the prediction accuracy is the extrapolation of the four-year aggregate survivor function from 40 to 48 months as described in Chapter IV. We therefore investigate the sensitivity of the prediction results to changes in the extrapolation curve. To do this, three alternative distributions are fitted from p(40;4) to p(48;4) as follows:

- Linear a straight line connection representing a constant number of losses per month,
- 2) Free Hand an approximation to the distribution based on experience, intuition and a few incomplete reduced samples, and
- 3) Upper Bound a horizontal straight line out to the 48th month representing no further losses until that month.

These alternatives are plotted in Figure 19 along with the extrapolation distribution from Chapter IV. New values of the parameters p(k;4), k = 41, ..., 47 were determined for each alternative and their representative changes in the prediction calculated. These changes in numbers of men and in percent of total force are shown in Table VII.

TABLE VII

Extrapolation Sensitivity Results

Alternative	Prediction Change	Change in Percent of Total Force
Linear	- 1166	- 0.66
Free Hand	+ 901	+ 0.51
Upper Bound	+ 2471	+ 1.41



These results indicate that the final prediction of the model is relatively insensitive to the extrapolation techniques applied. Although having complete data for parameter estimation is still desireable, satisfactory estimates can be made using any reasonable technique of extrapolation.



VI. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The model in this paper is simple and for computational purposes relies heavily on the assumption that cohort behavior is stationary over time. The more data that are available, of course, the easier it is to support or discount the stationarity assumption. Also, more confidence can be placed in the parameter estimates and, hence, in the prediction results as long as the stationarity assumption is assumed. It is felt that complete data on cohorts of the full twelve months of a year, each traced up to a minimum of one year past the initial length of obligated service is a minimum requirement for a useful data base with which to make good parameter estimates and strength forecasts.

The data analyzed for this model appear to be reliable with the possible exception of the deserter data (R4, Chapter II, Table I). For purposes of the Model, the deserter data are good, but they can be misleading if not handled consistently when making comparisons with figures from other sources. If in the latest update of a given cohort a deserter is still unaccounted for, then he appears in the data as an expired lifetime during the month he deserted. If in a subsequent update he is apprehended and returned to service for disciplinary action, he is re-entered into his original cohort and no evidence remains in the data that he was missing. On 1 January 1972, how many deserters were at large, not counted in the total strength figure and will yet be returned to service?

Any forecasting method involving many parameters which must be estimated is subject to random errors and problems with data definitions



and interpretations. It is felt that for a first pass prediction using incomplete data and crude extrapolation techniques, the results indicate considerable potential for this type of model.



VII. USES AND FURTHER STUDY

The ultimate use of this type of model is to predict total enlisted strength at some future date. To do this, the refined

First-termers model discussed in Chapter VI would have to be combined with a similar model for Careerists based on re-enlistment data.

Together, these two models would comprise a means of forecasting the total enlisted force of the Marine Corps. By knowing the desired force level at some distant time, say 1 January 1974, these models could be manipulated to yield suggested monthly inputs for the interim months.

Cohort models are not restricted to enlisted data, of course.

Models for Officer cohorts such as described in McAfee [1] can also be useful in the same manner.

Major Marine Corps policy changes can have a significant effect on changing the shape of the cohort survivor functions and thereby changing the required model parameters. Effects of such policies as early outs or involuntary extensions could be analyzed through a cohort model by postulating life distributions as functions of the policy variables (fractions let out early, fraction extended, etc.).

Other possible areas for further study using cohort data similar to that analyzed for this paper include: effect of casualties due to hostile action on cohort attrition, survivor functions for draftees compared to volunteers, effects of deserters on total strength, and analysis of lifetimes by mental groupings.

Also, with more complete data, reasonable bounds on parameters for the model presented could be found, thus yielding a prediction range as well as a best estimate.



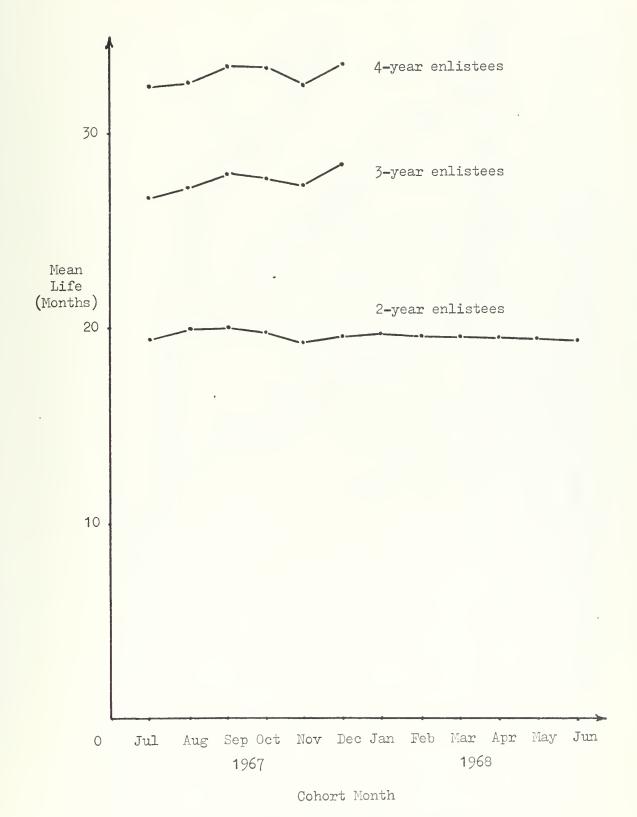


Figure 1: lotal Data Year Lifetimes



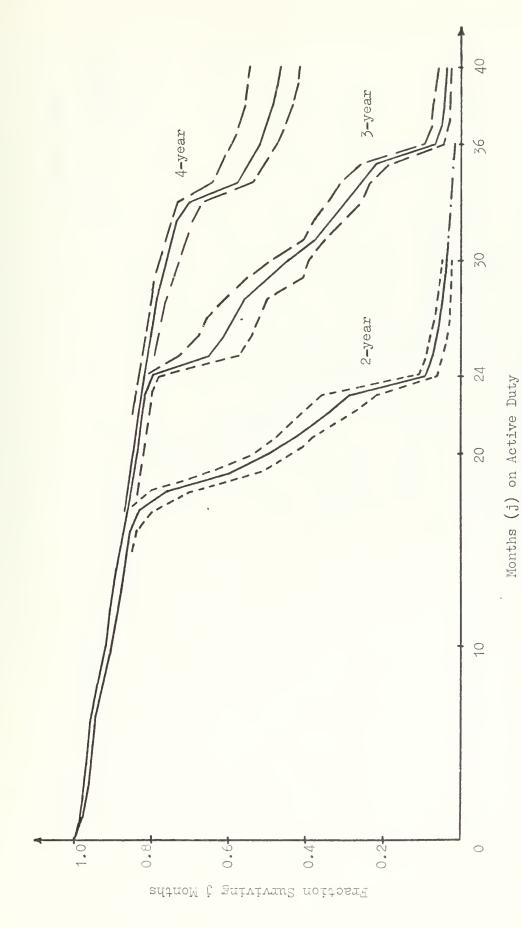


Figure 2: Total Data Aggregate Survivor Functions with Envelopes



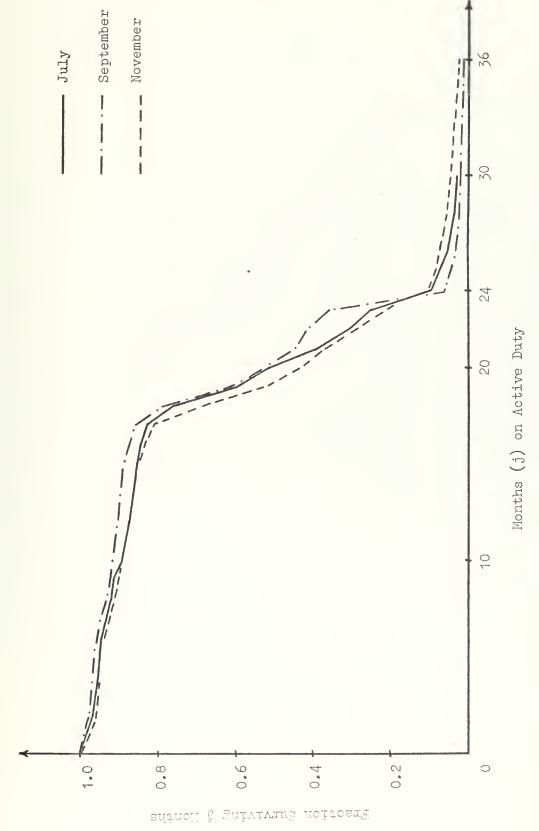


Figure 3: Distributions for Two-year Total Data Cohorts, July, September, November 1967



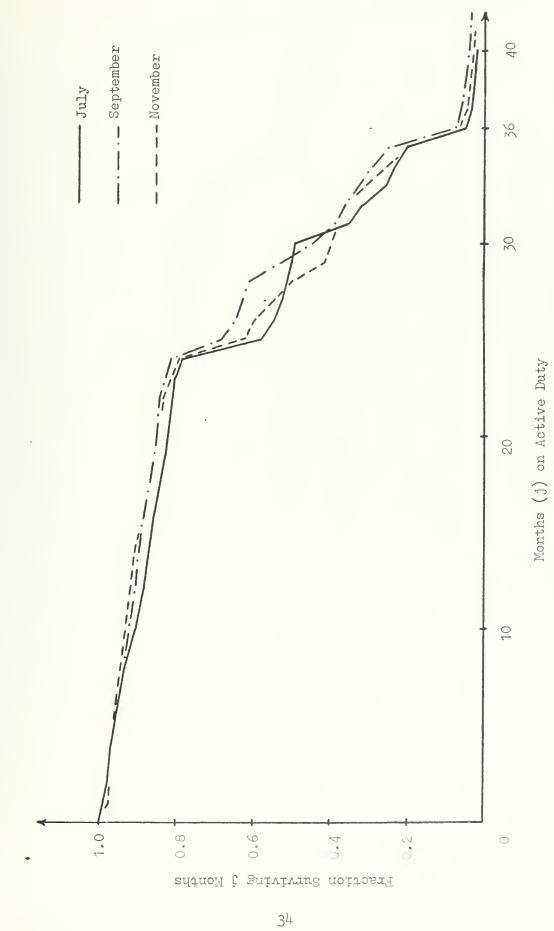


Figure 4: Distributions for Three-year Total Data Cohorts, July, September, November 1967



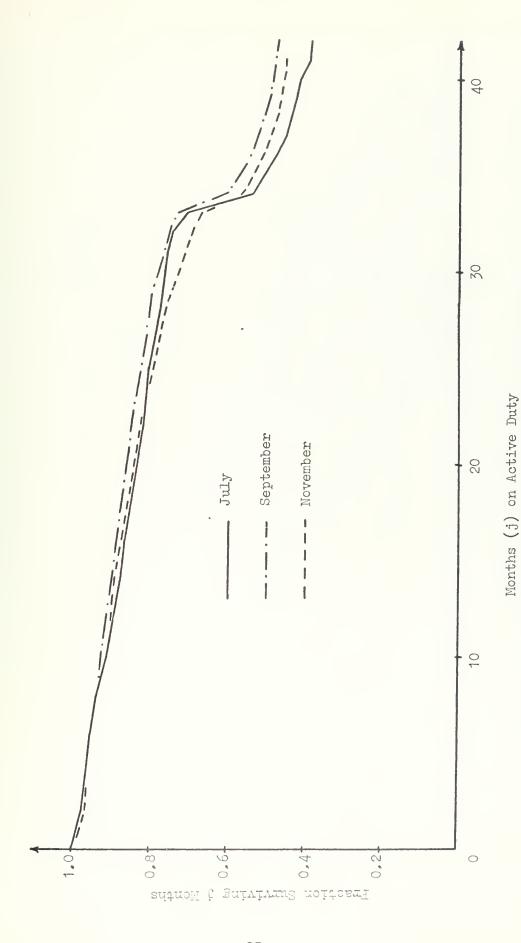


Figure 5: Distributions for Four-year Total Data Cohorts, July, September, November 1967



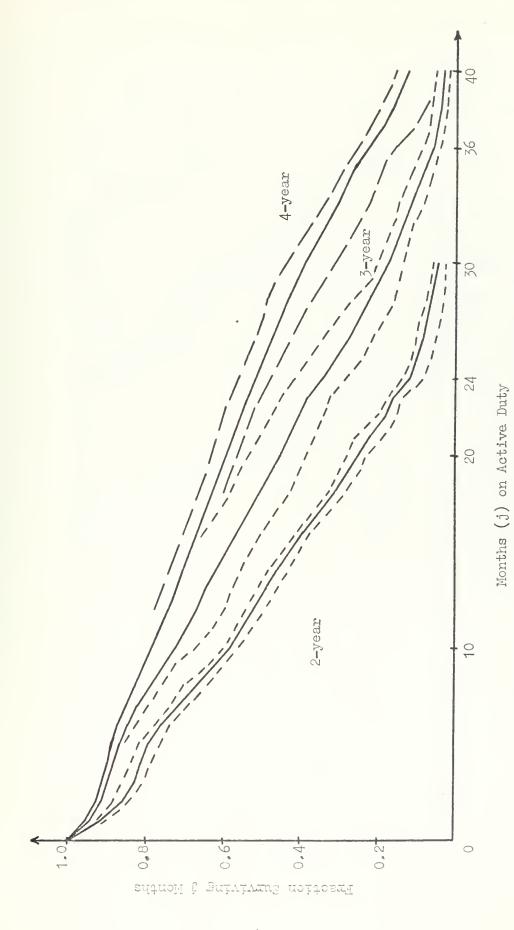


Figure 6: Aggregate Attrition Distributions with Envelopes



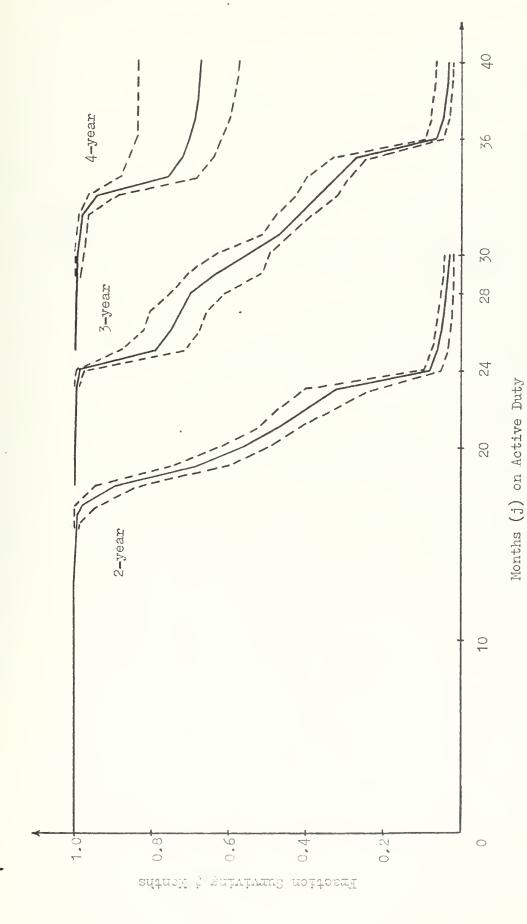


Figure 7: Aggregate EOAS Distributions with Envelopes

37



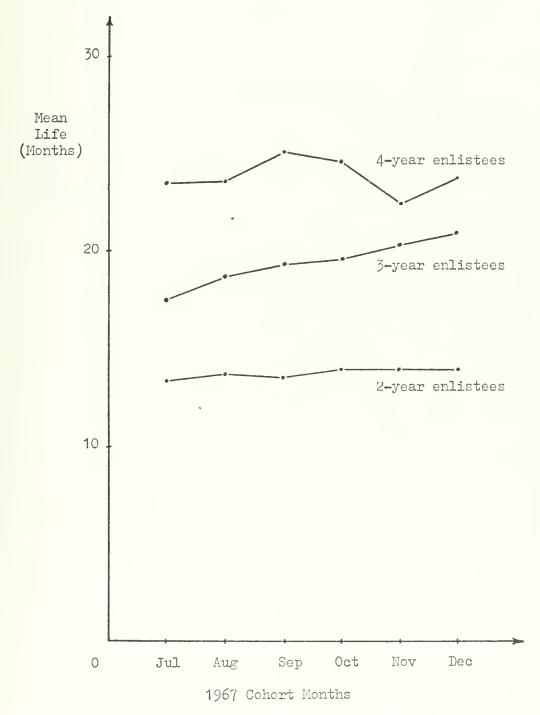


Figure 8: Attrition Mean Lifetimes



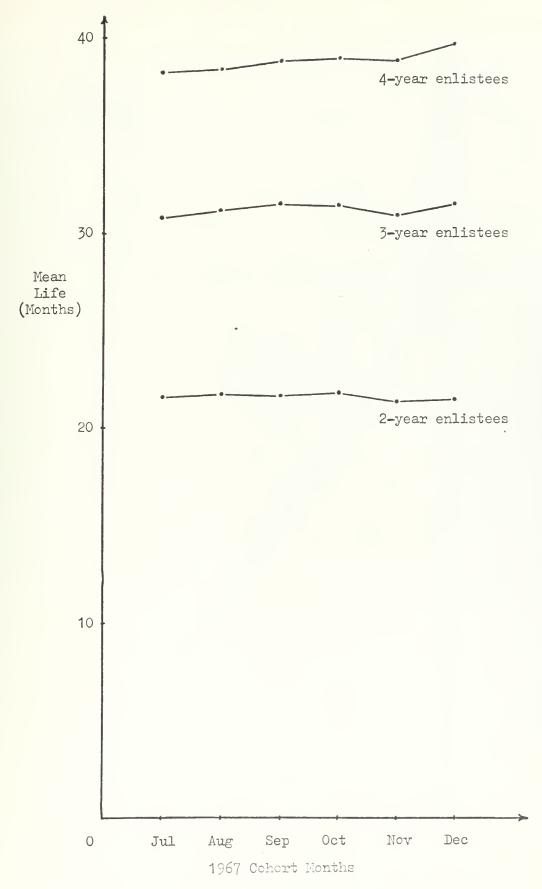


Figure 9: EOAS Mean Lifetimes



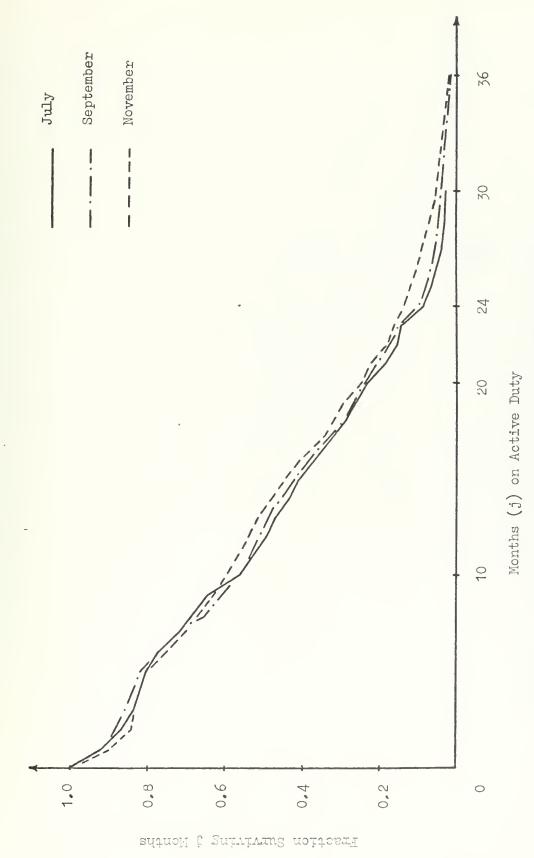


Figure 10: Distributions for Two-year Attrition Cohorts July, September, November 1967



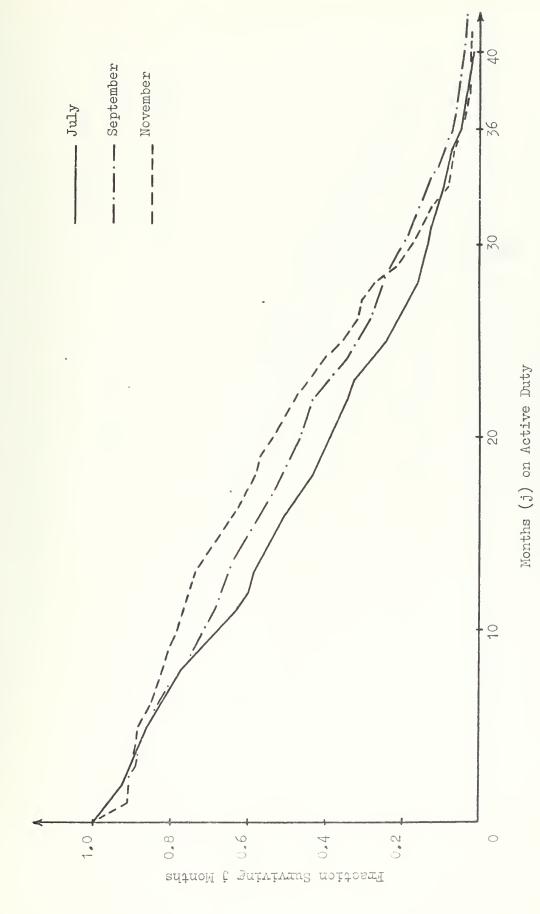


Figure 11: Distributions for Three-year Attrition Cohorts July, September, November 1967



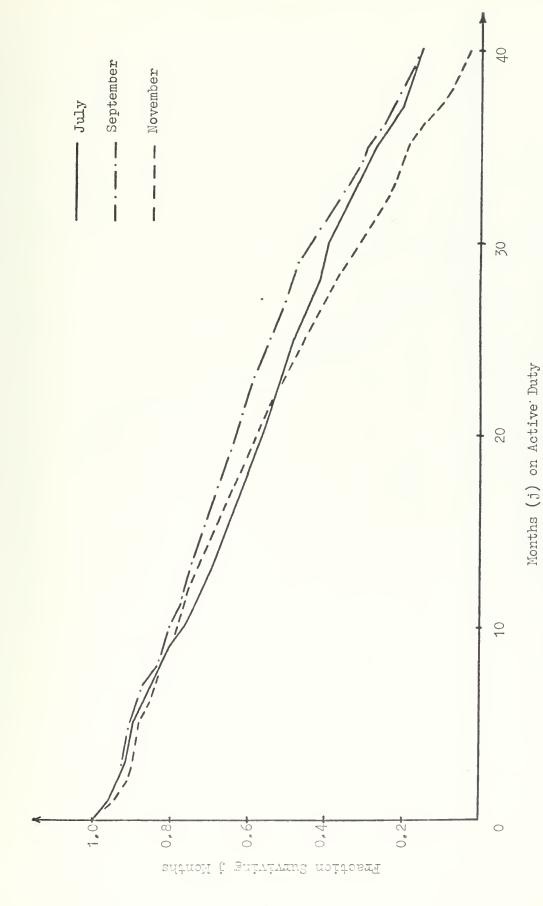


Figure 12: Distributions for Four-year Attrition Cohorts July, September, Nevember 1967



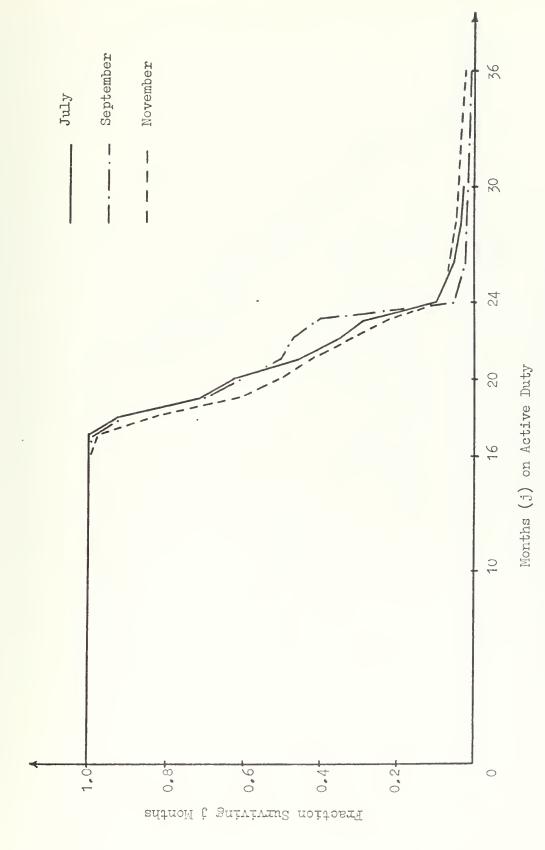


Figure 13: Distributions for Two-year EOAS Cohorts July, September, November 1967



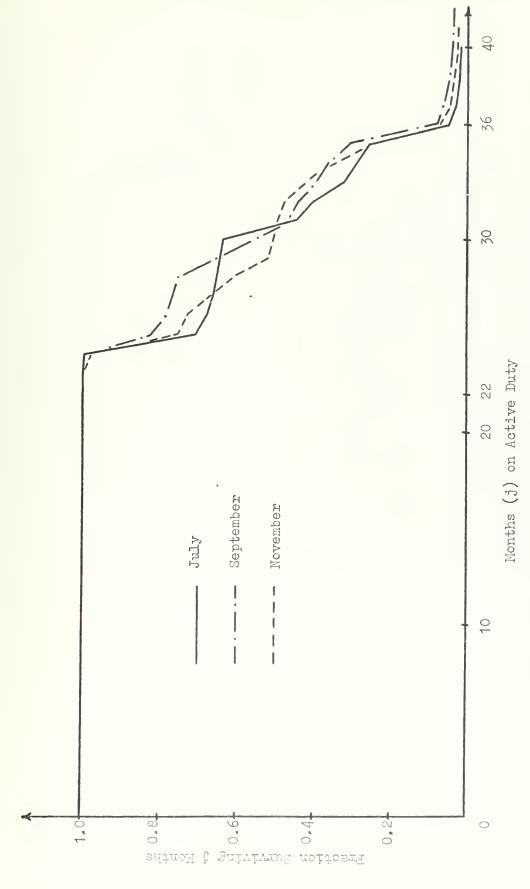


Figure 14: Distributions for Three-year EOAS Cohorts July, September, November 1967



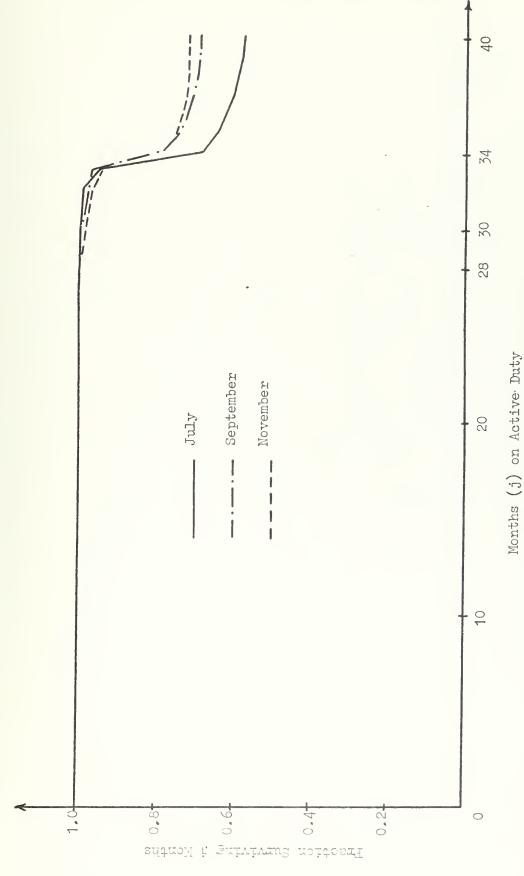


Figure 15: Distributions for Four-year EOAS Cohorts July, September, November 1967



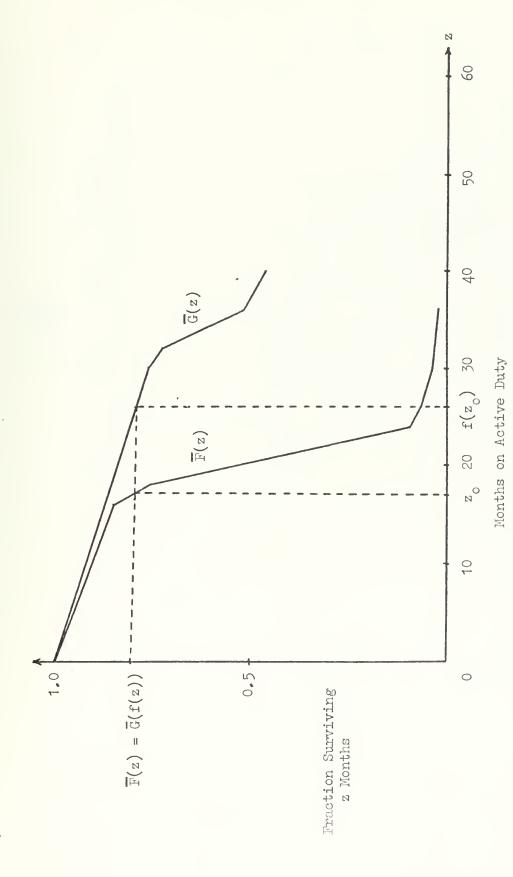


Figure 16: Relationship Between Distributions



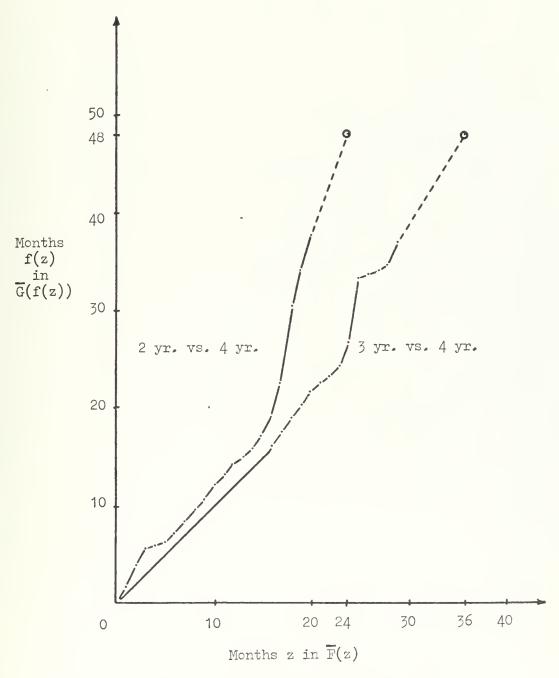


Figure 17: Functional Relationships

2 yr. vs. 4 year and 3 yr. vs. 4 yr.

Total Data Aggregate Distributions





Figure 18: Aggregate Total Data Second-degree Polynomial Extrapolations



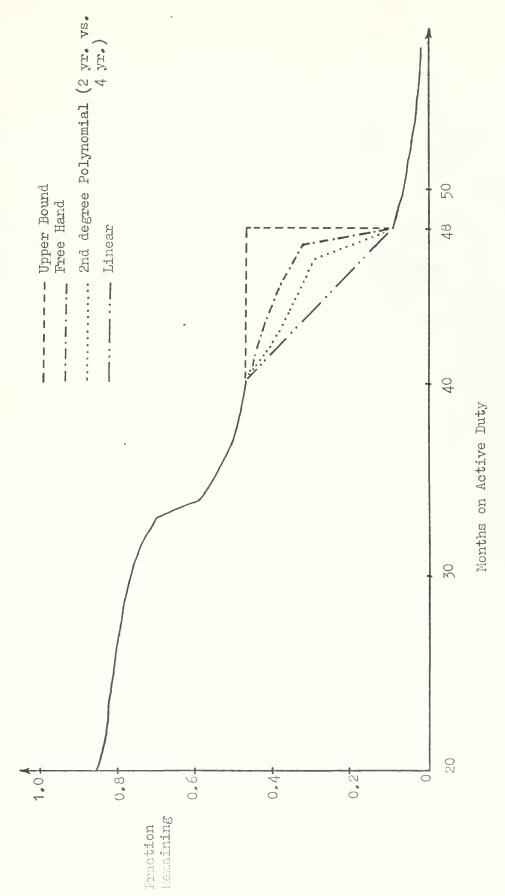


Figure 19: Aggregate Four-year Total Data Sensitivity Extrapolations



APPENDIX A

THE DATA BASE

The following data in the format described in Chapter II (Table I) provide the basis for the distributions plotted in this thesis. These data include two-year cohorts from July 1967 through June 1968 and three-year and four-year cohorts from July 1967 through December 1967. Also used as inputs to the model are the initial cohort strengths for all cohorts from January 1967 through December 1971. These values are listed.



Two - year Cohort Starting in July 1967

Initial Strength = 1725

Month after start	R1	Losse R2	s by Gro R3	ups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	36 20 13 17 8 11 12 13 13 15 16 10 12 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17	0000000000000222026107101000	0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 27 9 10 1 24 1 25 1 26 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2	0000010010100001111101000001010	00000.522000000000000000000000000000000	36 20 13 7 9 11 26 14 35 31 10 10 10 12 23 11 21 36 27 36 31 21 31 21 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31	1689 1669 1656 1649 1640 1629 1603 1587 1573 1525 1509 1499 1483 1457 1434 1312 1019 908 663 527 437 163 127 93 72 63 57 52
Total Losses	369	24	1261	10	9	1673	

Two - year Cohort Starting in August 1967

Initial Strength = 1822

Month after start	R1	Losse R2	s by Gro	ups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 22 23 24 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36	35 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	00000000001210020312310000010000	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 1 0 0 0 0 1 9 0 0 2 1 0 0 0 0 1 9 64 7 16 10 6 2 3 2 1 2 2 0 2	00001000000000012010000000000	0000012800100000000000000000000000	35 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	1787 1768 1758 1750 1744 1735 1662 1673 1663 1613 1664 1633 1613 1659 1591 1564 1187 9846 637 9158 108 976 651 839 448 342	

Total Losses



Two - year Cohort Starting in September 1967

Initial Strength = 1848

Month after start	R1	Losse R2	s by Gro R3	ups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36	32 10 7 8 5 5 5 11 11 13 15 9 6 8 8 7 13 7 4 4 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1	00000000000101121332600000000000	0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 5 3 1 7 8 9 8 3 1 4 3 1 1 0 2 1 4 5 2 5 6 3 1 4 3 1 1 0 2 1 4	000012000010000000000000000000000000000	000005000301000000000000000000000000000	32 10 7 8 6 17 16 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	1816 1806 1799 1791 1785 1768 1752 1709 1693 1681 1674 1665 1642 1642 1595 1461 1124 965 826 772 661 113 81 40 38 32 30 24
Total Losses	304	20	1477	4	19	1824	



Two - year Cohort Starting in October 1967

Initial Strength = 2034

Month after start	R1	Losse R2	s by Gro R3	ups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 6 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 24 25 27 28 29 30 31 33 34 35 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36	38 35 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	00000000001101220126150000000001	00000000000050 1036520110 1374331718362022145	010000101110100120000110000000	000003008010001010000000000000000000000	38 36 10 11 30 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	1996 1960 1945 1935 1930 1919 1884 1854 1864 187 1776 1776 1776 17710 1619 1225 1014 930 795 641 187 141 117 95 88 77 68 53 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50
Total Losses	433	23	1513	12	14	1995	



Two - year Cohort Starting in November 1967

Initial Strength = 2174

Month after start	R1	Losse R2	s by Gro R3	ups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 33 34 35 36	58 32 6 7 6 27 30 19 11 13 19 19 19 11 12 11 12 11 12 11 12 13 14 14 11 12 14 11 12 14 14 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0	0001010000010202100010101000000210	000001005040100000000000000000000000000	58 2 6 8 6 9 1 2 4 7 18 3 5 2 5 6 3 7 4 6 0 9 5 5 2 2 6 11 1 1 2 3 3 2 5 6 3 1 7 2 4 6 0 9 5 5 2 2 6 1 1 6 1 1 6 1 1 6 1 1 6 1 1 6 1 1 6 1 1 6 1 1 6 1 1 6 1 1 6 1 1 6 1 1 6 1 1 6 1 1 6 1 1 1 6 1 1 1 6 1 1 1 6 1	2116 2084 2078 2070 2064 2035 2004 1984 1960 1943 1925 1897 1846 1814 1761 1509 1133 940 621 466 218 185 168 144 128 108 99 489 77 65 59 48
Total Losses	514	22	1565	14	11	2126	



Two - year Cohort Starting in December 1967

Initial Strength = 2367

Month after start	R1	Losse R2	s by Gro	ups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Renaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36	43 48 22 11 13 14 21 15 14 26 11 25 15 16 16 16 16 16 21 15 42 15 42	000000000011001141350600010000000	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 7 4 13 7 128 325 246 205 398 30 14 13 7 2 7 10 7 10 7 10 7 10 7 10 7 10 7 10	000001122100000210301310201100000	000000110310000000000000000000000000000	43 48 22 11 13 15 13 26 16 14 18 20 24 11 18 22 41 11 26 17 18 12 26 17 18 18 19 10 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11	2324 2276 2254 2243 2230 2215 2202 2175 2149 2130 2114 2100 2082 2050 2020 1996 1881 1736 1394 1126 902 788 670 250 209 183 157 140 122 110 101 92 80 72 61 49
Total Losses	514	24	1742	23	15	2318	



Two-year Cohort Starting in January 1968

Initial Strength = 4117

Month after start	R1	Losse R2	s by Gro	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	72 57 22 14 15 145 32 56 62 21 29 62 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42	000000001203205212621100000	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 5 2 14 107 59 538 438 114 98 294 742 71 28 25 13 74	1 1 0 0 0 0 4 1 0 0 0 2 1 1 0 0 0 1 2 2 0 1 2 2 3 1 0 0 1 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	73 58 22 14 15 38 35 39 30 28 49 42 152 85 36 78 471 124 379 43 43 42 42 42 42 42 42 43 44 42 42 43 44 44 45 47 47 47 47 47 47 47 47 47 47 47 47 47	4044 3986 3964 3950 3935 3845 3810 3771 3741 37689 3651 3602 3560 3408 3323 2970 2292 1821 1678 1240 461 366 323 288 257 238 216
Total Losses	816	37	2991	26	31	3901	



Two - year Cohort Starting in February 1968

Initial Strength = 3983

Month after start	R1	Losse R2	s by Gro	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	82 50 31 4 31 31 32 22 33 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31	000000000130131212547031130	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	000010131000110122111011000020	0000010811604110000000000000000000000000	82 50 34 15 33 36 36 36 37 4 4 50 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	3901 3851 3815 3801 3786 3754 3722 3686 3650 3624 3588 3550 3516 3281 3215 2944 2037 1814 1631 1477 1223 413 307 256 227 197 180 162
Total Losses	816	38	2914	20	33	3821	



Two - year Cohort Starting in March 1968

Initial Strength = 3519

Month after start	R1	Losse: R2	s by Gro	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Renaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	73 537 15 19 21 22 22 37 26 18 19 26 20 18 14 0 4	00000000010131011030310101111	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 0 0 9 14 3 2 2 3 5 4 5 2 2 0 1 6 5 7 1 2 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	010211311212322112001220111121	0 0 0 0 0 3 4 3 0 3 4 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	73 54 27 17 20 24 28 31 24 28 35 50 54 29 197 206 67 432 29 15	3446 3392 3365 3348 3328 3304 3278 3250 3219 3195 3167 3134 3099 3045 2940 2836 2458 1914 1675 1478 1272 956 348 281 238 206 177 162 150
Total Losses	694	29	2589	38	19	3369	



Two - year Cohort Starting in April 1968

Initial Strength = 5834

Month after start	R1	Losse R2	s by Gro	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	141 825 19340 523635 4508 53340 411 4045 111 95	0000000000000000001100001446016001	0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 1 10 1 24 10 1 18 27 6 10 24 23 23 23 57 9 43 2 1 2 2 1 2 2 3 2 3 2 4 3 2 3 4 3 4 3 4 3 4 3 4 3	012234310200134011011201102020	00000507920002000000000000	141 83 55 31 22 27 367 361 62 48 80 106 477 1276 48 40 20 12	5693 5610 5555 5524 5502 5475 5438 5371 5336 5275 5213 5165 5213 5165 4949 4880 4890 4694 4053 3410 3134 2769 2143 1666 390 296 248 208 188 168 156
Total Losses	11 89	29	4397	38	25	5678	



Two - year Cohort Starting in May 1968

Initial Strength = 5299

Month after start	R1	Losse R2	s by Gr R3	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	142 117 527 142 333 386 370 944 342 349 349 310 279 114 96	00000000000011100000655021000	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 2 2 0 3 6 6 0 9 3 4 7 4 7 4 7 4 7 4 7 4 7 4 7 6 7 6 7 6 7	200050010322220452003110022010	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	144 117 56 27 19 27 34 40 41 42 47 66 83 140 6370 5511 1213 92 539 22 15 12	5155 5038 4982 4955 4936 4909 4875 4841 4801 4760 4718 4671 4608 4542 4478 4395 3039 3483 3039 2483 2088 1577 364 272 219 180 158 143 131
Total Losses	1079	24	4015	40	10	51 68	



Two - year Cohort Starting in June 1968

Initial Strength = 4023

Month after start	R1	Losse R2	s by Gr	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	110 74 316 15 12 21 22 20 20 34 21 22 34 20 34 35 36 36 36 36 36 37 37 38 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37	00000000000104010002657212001	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 48 24 27 52 80 517 237 448 278 114 850 43 16 15 84 3	110122101201120201012231112000	000001310201000100000000000	111 75 38 17 17 15 22 28 32 28 23 83 68 57 86 100 548 267 484 266 317 144 878 56 35 16 20 5	3912 3837 3799 3782 3765 3750 3668 3645 3617 3594 3511 3443 3386 3300 2652 2385 1901 1635 1318 1174 296 205 179 163 143 138
Total Losses	802	32	3011	31	9	3885	



Three - year Cohort Starting in July 1967

Initial Strength = 1752

Month after start	R1	Losse R2	s by Gro	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 38 39 40	26 14 12 10 8 12 16 13 15 24 11 18 14 20 10 11 13 15 14 21 16 17 17 18 19 3 4 6 6 8 2 7 7 7 5 1 4 2	000000000000000000066233200121060000	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	000123100111000101102012100100110000	000000164000000000000000000000000000000	26 14 12 11 10 15 17 14 21 22 16 8 13 11 15 60 23 63 33 21 24 24 10 47 47 26 49 51 49 51 49 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51	1726 1712 1700 1689 1679 1664 1647 1633 1612 1583 1545 1545 1545 1547 1447 1447 1447 1447
Total Losses	435	32	1213	24	12	1716	



Three - year Cohort Starting in August 1967

Initial Strength = 2134

Month after start	R1	Losse R2	s by Gro	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44	32 20 8 11 6 7 11 7 12 12 20 17 21 17 19 19 19 10 10 20 17 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 25 4 7 20 1 1 6 3 9 3 9 5 1 1 4 2 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	010011100010000210032202012101000200001	000000240000000000000000000000000000000	32 21 8 11 7 8 12 19 34 17 21 22 20 18 23 17 18 20 20 21 21 31 20 20 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21	2102 2081 2073 2062 2055 2047 2035 2016 1982 1965 1944 1922 1884 1831 1793 1748 1739 1719 1666 1339 1748 1739 1719 1666 1339 1211 1185 605 501 427 109 83 65 57 53 51 49 48 45
Total Losses	547	42	1467	27	6	2089	



Three - year Cohort Starting in September 1967

Initial Strength = 2501

Month after start	R1	Losse: R2	s by Gro	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43	32 26 20 7 8 13 13 15 11 12 12 13 14 15 14 14 16 16 16 17 17 18 18 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	00014200001000012120300211112120000010001000	000001190010401010000010000000000000000	32 26 20 8 12 16 19 34 11 17 25 9 13 15 11 22 21 18 15 16 17 29 17 40 21 20 21 40 21 59 76 76 76 76 76 76 76 76 76 76 76 76 76	2469 2443 2443 2445 2403 2387 2368 2334 2323 2306 2281 2272 2259 2244 2223 2201 · 2180 2162 2147 2131 2116 2105 2073 2028 1701 1614 1570 1530 1317 1115 964 905 808 732 625 183 153 115 107 99 91 89
Total Losses	562	59	1742	30	19	2412	



Three - year Cohort Starting in October 1967

Initial Strength = 919

Month after start	R1	Losse R2	s by Gro	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 1 22 23 24 25 6 27 28 29 33 1 32 33 44 5 36 37 8 39 40 41	216323786778423677445247730632766163532111	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	00010111000000000010001001000000000000101	000005003002000000000000000000000000000	21 63338487084436774582474099908561228355806312	898 892 889 886 883 875 861 853 846 828 824 820 817 811 804 797 793 788 764 757 743 663 624 605 525 437 372 356 334 305 31 306 325 336 346 327 328 337 337 337 347 347 347 347 347 347 347
Total Losses	236	13	623	9	10	891	



Three - year Cohort Starting in November 1967

Initial Strength = 776

Month after start	R1	Losse: R2	s by Gro	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 12 22 22 24 22 26 27 28 29 30 31 33 33 33 34 35 36 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41	21220724453439986838570518363855832213010	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	00000000000000000000000000000000000000	00011120010000000111000000110000000000	000000000100000000000000000000000000000	21 23 12 31 84 44 46 34 44 9,9 86 83 10 68 33 17 11 20 34 87 44 59 17 74 21	753 752 750 747 746 738 730 726 720 717 709 691 683 677 666 650 642 481 427 389 322 308 240 198 325 240 198 322 21
Total Losses	217	20	506	11	1	755	



Three - year Cohort Starting in December 1967

Initial Strength = 767

Month after start	R1	Losse R2	s by Gro	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 6 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 4 25 6 27 28 9 30 1 32 33 4 35 6 37 38 39 40	911323165286266986897428588803441,4553021	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	10000000000000000000000000000000000000	000100010000000110000102001200001000010	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	10 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 3 1 9 5 4 8 6 2 6 6 9 8 7 9 9 9 7 5 3 1 2 1 6 4 9 1 8 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 2 1 2 1 1 2 1 1 2 1 1 2 1 2 1 1 2 1 2 1 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 1 2 2 3 1 3 1	757 746 745 741 739 736 721 709 701 689 680 6656 640 635 640 635 640 635 640 556 640 556 405 343 263 314 293 320 71 59 50 49
Total Losses	203	12	487	12	4	718	



Four - year Cohort Starting in July 1967

Initial Strength = 5378

Month after start	R1	Losses R2	by Gro	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44	86 48 31 40 42 79 50 37 52 33 33 35 31 32 32 44 42 42 42 42 41 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 43 44 44 46 47 48 48 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49	00000000000000000000000000000000000000	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	10010211113020122112203122311220634233122121	000001363500104000001000000000000000000000000000	87 48 320 21 447 47 46 85 37 55 55 81 42 7 44 37 37 53 37 53 42 43 43 43 53 43 54 43 54 54 54 54 54 54 54 54 54 54 54 54 54	5291 5243 5205 5185 5164 5120 5073 5026 4980 4895 4842 4805 4750 4715 4687 4646 4604 4567 4523 4486 4414 4382 4348 4314 4264 4177 4152 4129 4083 4014 3821 2887 2708 2570 2435 2360 2294 2246 2107 2080 2057 2030
Total Losses	1580	147	1526	71	24	3348	



Four - year Cohort Starting in August 1967

Initial Strength = 4198

Month after start	R1	Losses R2	by Gro	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 33 34 35 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 44 44	79 51 23 19 12 30 36 50 22 6 32 7 31 33 20 29 23 31 24 20 30 28 45 6 35 49 25 16 13 29 14 15 7	00000000000000000000000000000000000000	00000000000000000000000000000000000000	001312210031210310004141213322223125212114163	000001070020011000000000000000000000000	79 51 24 22 13 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29	4119 4068 4044 4022 4009 3977 3938 3911 3854 3803 3767 3738 3769 3681 3612 3559 3537 3502 3477 3440 3407 3440 3407 3407 3407 3407
Total Losses	1260	11 8	985	78	12	2453	



Four - year Cohort Starting in September 1967

Initial Strength = 4045

Month after start	R1	Losses R2	s by Gro	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 234567890 112314567890 112314567890 112314567890 13233456789041 243	68 39 16 7 12 24 47 20 19 20 19 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29	00000000000000000000000000000000000000	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0003012112123013321011253140232242312012152	000002114019020200000100021100110000000000	68 39 16 10 12 27 62 21 22 23 21 22 23 23 23 24 25 20 23 23 23 23 23 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 29 29 29 20 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21	3977 3938 3922 3912 3900 3873 3846 3784 3763 3741 3702 3681 3656 3635 3608 3557 3533 3478 3478 3478 3478 3478 3478 3478 34
Total Losses	1132	114	780	75	38	2139	



Four - year Cohort Starting in October 1967

Initial Strength = 2554

Month after start	R1	Losses R2	by Gro	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 1 22 23 24 25 6 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 6 37 38 39 41 42	43 27 16 17 18 12 14 15 16 16 17 14 16 16 19 19 11 12 14 16 16 16 17 18 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19	00000000000000000000000000000000000000	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 1	000002111211000310124024010221314250231231	000007017012011020001000000000000000000	43 27 16 7 6 13 15 14 16 17 18 18 17 19 12 12 12 12 13 14 16 16 17 18 18 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19	2511 2484 2468 2461 2455 2442 2406 2391 2377 2355 2328 2310 2298 2262 2245 2295 2193 2167 2155 2130 2110 2094 2081 2094 2081 2094 2081 2099 1989 1940 1910 1880 1829 1560 1478 1424 1378 1332 1309 1283 1266 1253
Total Losses	716	67	436	59	23	1301	



Four - year Cohort Starting in November 1967

Initial Strength = 2517

Month after start	R1	Losses R2	by Gro R3	ups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 2 13 14 15 6 17 8 19 20 1 22 23 4 25 6 27 28 29 30 1 32 33 34 5 36 37 8 39 40 41	50 37 17 20 15 16 17 21 19 20 21 22 22 23 23 24 29 29 29 29 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	00011300010013010201223011101040201155141	00002001100020100000012000001000000010	50 37 13 86 25 16 25 15 10 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21	2467 2430 2417 2409 2403 2378 2362 2346 2331 2308 2293 2257 2217 2198 2177 2092 2068 2045 2023 1997 1948 1979 1875 1834 1791 1754 1685 1417 1298 1233 1201 1178 1153 1147
Total Losses	809	56	435	49	21	1370	



Four - year Cohort Starting in December 1967

Initial Strength = 2430

Month after start	R1	Losses R2	s by Gro	oups R4	R5	Row Total	Number Remaining
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 33 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30	47 36 11 8 10 1 5 12 9 6 2 11 15 3 3 4 4 3 20 1 18 19 0 3 2 15 2 15 2 15 2 15 2 15 2 15 2 15 2	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	0000100000000000000110573240311201	0000035231512012120203126101317124111221	0000005021002000001000010000000000000	47 36 11 8 11 10 19 10 18 13 17 25 15 16 14 22 17 22 17 22 17 28 34 28 52 41 30 17 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37	2383 2347 2336 2328 2317 2303 2293 2274 2262 2252 2234 2221 2204 2179 2164 2148 2134 2112 2101 2081 2062 2038 2024 2005 1983 1966 1938 1965 1863 1742 1712 1757 1511 1438 1401 1364 1327
Total Losses	724	53	244	70	12	1103	



COHORT

INITIAL COHORT STRENGTH

Year	Month	Two-year	Three-year	Four-year
1967	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	24 20 19 6 252 1107 1725 1822 1848 2034 2174 2367	1104 553 586 626 910 1669 1752 2134 2501 919 776 767	2801 1914 2926 3431 4855 6617 5378 4198 4045 2554 2517 2430
1968	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	4117 3983 3519 5834 5299 4023 3287 3484 3493 3987 3490 5516	1203 1087 1102 840 1244 1838 1646 1631 1726 1601 1386 944	3305 2933 2940 2234 2515 3505 2633 2483 2354 2397 2055 1940
1969	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	4950 3862 3450 2800 3077 3165 4434 4224 4030 4136 3614 3845	886 664 1062 914 902 1515 1688 1488 1370 1456 1427	1825 1633 1853 1567 1533 2622 2305 1933 2192 2167 2142 1844



COHORT

INITIAL COHORT STRENGTH

Year	Month	<u>Two-year</u>	Three-year	Four-year
1970	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	4091 2358 820 793 1020 1815 2026 2601 2455 1539 1425 1415	1391 1319 964 899 854 999 1211 1410 1331 832 701 583	1935 2313 2204 1969 1653 2656 2533 2671 2596 1932 1744 1553
1971	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	2080 1728 1502 1360 1187 1575 2154 2286 2415 1981 1542 1294	838 725 596 587 509 781 685 594 565 460 431 426	2072 1884 1592 1576 1412 2268 2417 2400 2167 1816 1575 1640



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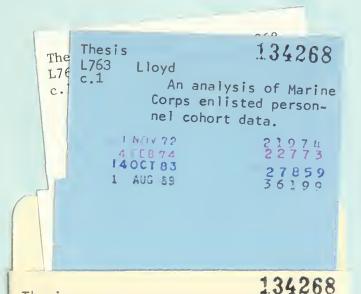
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T. Com Marina Comma enlisted cohol	rts are anal	yzed to gi	ve insight

Data from Marine Corps enlisted into personnel flow through the enlisted Marine Corps system. In this paper, a cohort is a group of enlisted men who enlist in a given calendar month for a given length of obligated service. Stationarity assumptions between cohorts from different months are investigated. A major portion of the analysis is devoted to the extrapolation of the incomplete data on fouryear enlistees based on the data from two-year and three-year enlistees. A prediction is made of enlisted strength for 1 January 1972 using the results of the analysis in a cohort prediction model. This is compared with the actual strength as of 1 January 1972. Refinements and associated models are suggested for further study.



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